

the stent having a first segment and a second segment, with the first segment having a plurality of combined adjacent cells that impart greater flexibility to the first segment than the second segment.

10.(New) The stent of claim 9, wherein each annular element comprises a plurality of alternating struts and apices connected to each other to form a substantially annular configuration, and wherein the connecting members are connected to the apices of the adjacent annular members.

11.(New) The stent of claim 9, wherein the difference in flexibility between the first and second segments is a difference in the longitudinal flexibilities in the first and second segments.

12.(New) The stent of claim 9, wherein the difference in flexibility between the first and second segments is a difference in the radial flexibilities in the first and second segments.

13.(New) The stent of claim 9, wherein the first and second segments are spaced apart longitudinally along the stent.

14.(New) The stent of claim 9 wherein the annular elements and connecting members are made of Nitinol.

15.(New) The stent of claim 9 wherein the annular elements and connecting members are made of a shape memory alloy--

In the Abstract

On page 7, please replace the abstract, beginning on line 5, with the following abstract:

--A stent is provided with a plurality of annular elements. Each annular element has a compressed state and an expanded state. At least one connecting member connects adjacent annular elements to form a plurality of cells with each cell having an area. The stent has a first segment and a second segment, with the first segment having a plurality of combined adjacent cells that impart greater flexibility to the first segment than the second segment.--